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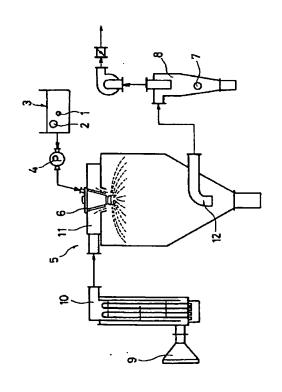
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(54) 【発明の名称 】 抗菌性粒子

(57) 【要約】

【構成】 非晶質リン酸カルシウム粒子1を含むスラリーに、水溶性の抗菌性金属塩イオン2が混合され、造粒化されてなる抗菌性粒子7。

【効果】 抗菌性粒子7は、高い抗菌性を有する上に、 樹脂成形品等への混合性を向上できると共に無色である から、生鮮食品等の食品の載置トレイ等に好適に使用で きる。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】非晶質リン酸カルシウム粒子を含むスラリーに、抗菌性金属イオンが混合され、造粒化されたものであることを特徴とする抗菌性粒子。

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【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、生鮮食品等の食品の鮮 度保持等に用いられる抗菌性粒子に関するものである。 【0002】

【従来の技術】従来より、殺菌作用を有する銀等の金属およびその金属塩の強い抗菌性、耐熱性が着目され、特開平5-154号公報に記載されているように、上記金属およびその金属塩を合成樹脂等に混合し成形して安全に長時間抗菌性を有する成形物を得るため、生理的に不活性な無機担体に抗菌性銀化合物を吸着担持させた抗菌性組成物、あるいはゼオライトにイオン交換により抗菌性金属イオンを担持させた抗菌性ゼオライト組成物などが知られている。

【0003】また、抗菌組成物として、特公平4-28646 号公報に開示されているように、上記金属およびその金 20 属イオンを無機担体、例えばゼオライトに吸着またはイ オン交換により担持したものが知られている。

【0004】同様な抗菌組成物として、リン酸三、四および八カルシウムに抗菌剤としてヨードホルム、クロルヘキシジン等を混合した抗菌組成物が、特開昭62-19508号公報、特開平4-29907号公報に開示されている。

【0005】さらに、近年、リン酸カルシウム系として最も多く使用されているハイドロキシアパタイト〔化学式: Ca10 (PO4)6 (OH)2〕に抗菌性金属およびその金属イオンを担持させた抗菌組成物が、特開平2-180270号公報、特開平2-273165号公報、特開平3-47118号公報、特開平3-137298号公報、特開平3-218765号公報、特開平4-13605号公報、特開平5-154号公報に開示されている。【0006】これらに開示された抗菌組成物は、ハイドロキシアパタイトに抗菌性金属およびその金属イオンを吸着担持させた後、800℃以上で焼成することにより抗菌性金属およびその金属イオンをハイドロキシアパタイトに結合させている。また、特開平3-90007号公報、特開平3-271209号公報では、ハイドロキシアパタイトスラリー中で抗菌性金属イオンを吸着させている。

[0007]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ところが、上記従来の 抗菌性ゼオライトおよび抗菌性のリン酸三、四および八 カルシウムは、合成樹脂を溶融し、混練した場合に安定 した抗菌特性が得られないという問題を有している。

【0008】一方、抗菌性金属および金属イオンを吸着 担持したハイドロキシアパタイトではスラリー中に添加 して得たものは水中で使用したり、水分を多く有する物 質に接触したりすると抗菌性金属が溶出して抗菌性が劣 化すると共に太陽光や蛍光灯の光が当たると茶色等に変 50

色するという問題を有している。

【0009】また、上記のようにして得られたアパタイト複合粒子は、高温で処理すると、抗菌性金属の溶出を防止できるが、抗菌力が低下し、特に黄色ブドウ球菌等に対する抗菌力の低い銀のような抗菌性金属では抗菌効果に欠けるという問題を生じている。

[0010]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の抗菌性粒子は、 以上の課題を解決するために、非晶質リン酸カルシウム 粒子を含むスラリーに、抗菌性金属イオンが混合され、 造粒化されたものであることを特徴としている。

【0011】上記非晶質リン酸カルシウム(amorphous calcium phosphate :以下、ACPと略す)粒子を含むスラリーは、攪拌下の水酸化カルシウム懸濁液に、水溶性高分子分散剤、例えばトリアクリル酸アンモニウム塩を $0.1\sim10$ 重量%添加し、好ましくは $0.1\sim3$ 重量%添加して混合溶液を得た後、攪拌下の上記混合溶液をリン酸水溶液の滴下によって $pH10\sim5$ に調整することにより、粒径約 0.1μ m以下のACP微粒子を含むものである。

【0012】このスラリー中に、50重量%以下となるように抗菌性金属粉末、抗菌性金属化合物、あるいはそれらの水溶液を混合した混合物をを噴霧乾燥造粒法などにより造粒して抗菌性粒子を得た。

【0013】上記ACP微粒子は、粉末X線解析法により、そのパターンからリン酸カルシウム〔Ca3 (PO4)2・nH20〕であり、また、そのパターンがブロードであることが確認される。その上、上記ACP微粒子は、結晶水を含むことから静電気的に活性な物質であると思われ、種々な菌体やウイルスを吸着し易くなっていると想定される。

【0014】また、得られた抗菌性粒子が大きな比表面積をそなえるために、スラリーのACP微粒子は、その粒径が 0.1 μm以下であることが、また、加える抗菌性金属粉末および抗菌性金属化合物粉末の粒径は20 μm以下であることが望ましい。その上、スラリーと加える抗菌性金属粉末、抗菌性金属化合物粉末あるいは抗菌性金属水溶液とは室温中で混合することが望ましい。

【0015】一方、スラリーにおけるACP微粒子が90 重量%以上となると、スラリーの粘度が高くなるので、 造粒に不適となる。なお、スラリーにおけるACP微粒 子の含量を1~90重量%の範囲で変えることにより、所 望の平均粒径を有する抗菌性粒子を得ることができる。 【0016】また、造粒法としては、得られる粒子が、 多孔質、かつ、粒径 200μm以下の略球状で、かつ、比 表面積を10m²/g以上にできるものであれば、特に限定されるものではないが、例えば噴霧乾燥造粒法を用いることができ、他にフリーズドライ後に粉砕してなる造粒 法、また、高速撹拌型造粒法を用いてもよい。

0 【0017】抗菌性金属としては、金、銀、亜鉛、銅、

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錫、鉛、砒素、白金、鉄、アンチモン、ニッケル、アルミニウム、パリウム、カドミウム、マンガンから少なくとも一種の金属、またはそれらの混合物、あるいはそれらの金属化合物、およびそれらの水溶液を用いることができる。

[0018]

【実施例】本発明の各実施例について図1および図2に基づいて説明すれば、以下の通りである。最初に、非晶質リン酸カルシウム(amorphous calcium phosphate:以下、ACPと略す)粒子を含むスラリーの製造方法について説明すると、まず、攪拌下の水酸化カルシウム懸濁液に、水溶性高分子分散剤としてのトリアクリル酸アンモニウム塩を0.5重量%添加して混合溶液を得た後、攪拌下の上記混合溶液をリン酸水溶液の滴下によってpH10に調整することにより、粒径約0.1μm以下のACP微粒子を含むスラリーを得た。

【0019】〔実施例1〕上記スラリーをイオン交換水により希釈して、ACPの濃度が20重量%となるように調製したACPスラリーを得た。そのACPスラリーに、イオン交換水に溶解した無水硝酸銀粉末を10 mol%となるように混合し、攪拌モータで1時間攪拌して混合物スラリーを得た。

【0020】図1に示すように、ACP粒子1および銀イオン2を含む上記混合物スラリー3を、定量ポンプ4によりスプレードライヤー(大川原化工機械社製 L-8)5に供給する。スプレードライヤー5のアトマイザー6を高速回転させて、上記混合物スラリー3を、スプレードライヤー5内の乾燥用の熱空気流中に噴霧することにより、噴霧造粒法により造粒乾燥した。

【0021】造粒乾燥により得られた銀イオン含有ACP微粉体である略球状の複合粒子7は、サイクロン8によって採取された。このとき、サイクロン8により採取しきれない超微粉体はバグフィルター(図示せず)により別に採取された。

【0022】なお、上記噴霧乾燥造粒における操作条件は次の通りであった。定量ポンプ4による原料としての混合物スラリー3の供給量は1~3kg/hであり、エアフィルター9を介して電気ヒーター10によって加温された熱空気の温度は、熱ガス室11の入口温度が200~250℃に、サイクロン8に繋がる排出孔12における出口40温度が100℃を常に越えるように制御され、また、アトマイザー6の回転数は10000~37000rpmの範囲内に設定された。

【0023】また、上記スプレードライヤー5をよりスケールアップした2種のスプレードライヤー(大川原化工機械社製 FOC-20, OD-25G、FOC-25, OC-25)を用いて、スラリー供給量を100kg/hrとし、他の条件は上記と同様に複合粒子を調製したところ、上記スプレードライヤー5による複合粒子7と同様の複合粒子が得られた。このようにして得られた複合粒子7は真球状であった。

【0024】 [実施例2] 上記実施例1における硝酸銀の混合率 10mol%に代えて、5 mol%とし、他は上記実施例1と同様の条件で操作して球状の複合粒子7を得た。

【0025】〔実施例3〕上記実施例1における硝酸銀の混合率 10mol%に代えて、2 mol%とし、他は上記実施例1と同様の条件で操作して球状の複合粒子7を得た

【0026】 [実施例4] 上記実施例1における硝酸銀の混合率 10mol%に代えて、1 mol%とし、他は上記実施例1と同様の条件で操作して球状の複合粒子7を得た。

【0027】 〔実施例5〕上記実施例1における硝酸銀の混合率 10mol%に代えて、 0.5 mol%とし、他は上記 実施例1と同様の条件で操作して球状の複合粒子7を得た。

【0028】〔実施例6〕上記実施例1.における硝酸銀の混合率10mol%に代えて、0.3 mol%とし、他は上記実施例1と同様の条件で操作して球状の複合粒子7を得20 た。

【0029】上記各実施例において得られた各複合粒子 7について、粉末 X線解析法により、上記各複合粒子 7 の生成相を調べたところ、図 2 に示すように、得られた 複合粒子 7 は、リン酸カルシウム [Cas (PO4)?・nH20] と銀との複合体であると同定され、また、上記 X線解析 パターンが、ブロードであることから、リン酸カルシウムが非晶質であることが判る。また、上記複合粒子 7 は、リン酸カルシウム内に銀イオンを取り込んでいて、上記両者の固溶体状態を形成していることが同定され 30 た。つまり、上記リン酸カルシウムの微結晶内や、カルシウムイオンの位置等に銀イオンが取り込まれていると 想定される。

【0030】これは、上記各実施例の各複合粒子7は、噴霧造粒によって造粒され、また、ACP粒子1を用いたため、多孔質な真球状となるためであると考えられる

[0031] 次に、得られた上記各複合粒子7の比表面積を測定した。それらの比表面積は、比表面積計(フローソープ2300、島津製作所製)を用いて測定した。比較として、銀イオンを担持させたアパタイト複合粒子(市販品、比表面積2.31m²/g)を用いた。それらの結果を表1に示した。

[0032]

【表1】

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試 料	比表面積(m²/g)
実施例1	80.5
実施例2	79.9
実施例3	80.1
実施例4	80.3
実施例5	79.8
実施例 6	8, 2 . 7
比較例	2.31

【0033】表1から明らかなように、上配各実施例において得られた各複合粒子7は、それらの比表面積がいずれも $79m^2/g$ 以上であり、市販品のアパタイト複合粒子より極めて大きな比表面積を示した。

*【0034】次に、上記実施例3、4、5で得られた各複合粒子7の抗菌力を測定した。比較として前記アパタイト複合粒子(市販品)を用いた。

【0035】試験方法

1. 菌液の調製

寒天培地で37℃、18時間培養した試験菌体をリン酸 緩衝液(1/15M、pH7.2)に浮遊させ10⁸ cells/mlの 懸濁液である原液を調整し、その原液を適宜希釈して試 験に用いた。

10 【0036】2. 抗菌性試験(シェークフラスコ法) 各複合粒子7を試料として 0.1gそれぞれ秤量し、上記 リン酸緩衝液 100mlの入った 200ml三角フラスコに入 れ、これに、試験菌懸濁液を約10⁵ cells/mlになるよう に加えた後、この三角フラスコを25℃±5℃に保ちなが ら振とうし、経時的に上記三角フラスコ内の菌数を測定 した。使用菌株は次の通り。

[0037]

使用菌株

Escherichia coli (大腸菌) IF0-12734 Staphylococcus aureus (黄色ブドウ球菌) IF0-12732 Psedomonas aeruginosa (緑膿菌) IF0-12689 Candida albicans (カンジダ) IF0-1060

使用培地

細菌: Mueller Hinton 2 (BBL)

真菌:ポテトデキストロース寒天培地(栄研)

上記の測定結果を表2~5に示した。

※【表2】

[0038]

※ 被験菌:Escherichia coli、初期菌数: 5.7×10⁵ cells/ml

サンプル	菌数の経時変化 (1 mlの生菌数)			
40710	6 hrs	24hrs	48hrs	
実施例3	0	0	0	
実施例4	0	0	0	
実施例5	0	0	0	
比較例	0	0	0	

[0039]

40 【表3】

被験菌:Staphylococcus aureus 、初期菌数: 6.3×10⁵ cells/ml

11- > 4 1 11	菌数の経時変化 (1 mlの生菌数)			
サンプル	6 hrs	24hrs	48hrs	
実施例3	0	0	0	
実施例4	0	0	0	
実施例5	0	0	0	
比較例	4. 3×10 ²	0	0	

[0040]

【表4】

被験菌:Psedomonas aeruginosa 、初期菌数: 7.2×10⁵ cells/ml

41. X 4 0 10	菌数の経時変化 (1 mlの生菌数)			
サンブル	6 hrs	24hrs	48hrs	
実施例3	0	0	0	
実施例 4	0	0	0	
実施例5	0	0	0	
比較例	0	0	0	

[0041]

【表5】

被驗南:Candida albicans、初期菌数: 6.8×105 cells/ml

	菌数の経時変化(1 mlの生菌数)			
サンプル	6 hrs	24hrs	48hrs	
実施例3	0	0	0	
実施例 4	0	0	0	
実施例5	0	0	0	
比較例	0	0	0	

【0042】このように上記実施例の複合粒子7は、従 来の抗菌性粒子として市販されている前記アパタイト複 合粒子より、抗菌作用が高いことが示された。これは、 上記各実施例の複合粒子7が、多孔質であるから、菌と して用いたACPが高い菌吸着能(朝日新聞、1993年1 月16日付け夕刊、参照)を有するためと想定される。

【0043】また、このような複合粒子7は、真球状で あるから、生鮮食品を載せる発泡プラスチックトレイ等 の樹脂成形品等にブレンドするときにも均一に分散され 易いものであり、樹脂成形品に対する混合性を従来より 向上できる。

【0044】次に、上記各複合粒子7は、プラスチック

シートに配合されて、生鮮食品を載せる発泡プラスチッ クトレイ等の白色である上記トレイに使用されることが 想定される。このことから、配合された複合粒子7が有 色である場合、上記トレイにゴミや汚れが付着している 接触する面積である比表面積が大きく、その上、基材と 40 とユーザーに誤認される虞がある。そこで、上記各複合 粒子7の色差測定を行った。

> 【0045】上記各実施例3~6で得られた各複合粒子 7を試料とし、比較のため、JISK7105に基づく標準 白色面としての標準板と上記各試料とを、積分球方式の 色差計 (ND-100P 、日本電色工業製) により測定し、そ れらの結果を表6に示した。

[0046]

【表 6 】

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		優準板	実施例3	奥施例 4	奥施例 5	奥施例 6
白色度 三刺8	設値Y X Z	82. 6 81. 2 92. 5	88. 2 86. 2 105	86. 3 84. 4 102	85. 1 83. 2 100	86.3 84.5 102
白色度	W W B	78. 4 90. 3	88, 7 93, 9	86. 2 92. 9	85. 0 92. 2	86. 3 92. 9
苗色度		7.0	-1.6	0.1	0.2	0.2

【0047】表6から明らかなように、全ての試料が標準白色面より白いことが判った。これにより、上記複合 10粒子7は、樹脂成形品に対する混合性を向上できると共に無色であるから、市販されているプラスチックス容器等の製造時に容易に練り込むことができ、あるいはシート状プラスチックに容易に混合成形しても、汚れ等に誤認される虞を防止できる。

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【0048】よって、上記複合粒子7は、樹脂原料に混合してプラスチックス容器を成形して、その容器の内表面に露出させることができ、また、ラミパック等のようにプラスチック容器の表面にコーティングできるから、上記プラスチック容器に載置された食品上における雑菌 20 の増殖を抑制できると共に、上記プラスチック容器の外観の劣化も回避できる。

【0049】このことから、上記複合粒子7は生鮮食品の日持ち向上を図ることができると共に、雑菌の増殖した食品による食中毒の防止効果を有し、さらに、きのこ類や果物等の農産物の鮮度保持効果も有することができる。

【0050】この結果、上記複合粒子7は、抗菌性に優

れ、かつ、外観の劣化も回避できるから、生鮮食品等の 食品の載置トレイ等に好適に使用することができる。

[0051]

【発明の効果】本発明の抗菌性粒子は、以上のように、 非晶質リン酸カルシウム粒子を含むスラリーに、抗菌性 金属イオンが混合され、造粒化されたものである。

【0052】それゆえ、上記抗菌性粒子は、高い抗菌性を有する上に、樹脂成形品に対する混合性を向上できると共に無色であるから、生鮮食品等の食品の載置トレイ等に好適に使用することができるという効果を奏する。

【図面の簡単な説明】

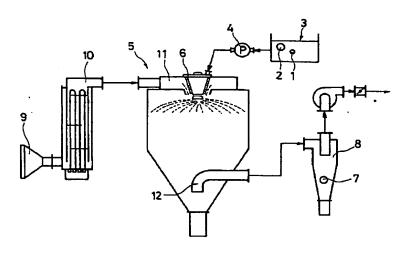
20 【図1】本発明の抗菌性粒子に用いるスプレイドライヤーの概略構成図である。

【図2】上記抗菌性粒子の組成を示すX線解析図である。

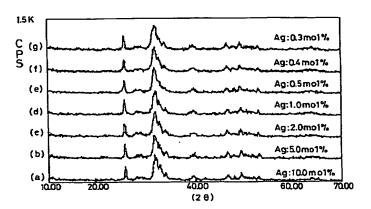
【符号の説明】

- 1 ACP粒子(非晶質リン酸カルシウム粒子)
- 2 銀イオン (抗菌性金属イオン)
- 7 複合粒子(抗菌性粒子)

【図1】



[図2]



Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 6-319500

(54) [Title of the Invention]

ANTIBACTERIAL PARTICLE

(57) [Abstract]

[Configuration] Antibacterial particle 7 obtained by making particle by granulation by mixing aqueous antibacterial metal salt ion 2 into a slurry containing amorphous calcium phosphate particle 1.

[Effect] Since the antibacterial particle 7 has a high antibacterial activity, the mixture property to the resin molded product or the like, and it is colorless, it can be suitably used for plate tray and the like for food such as fresh food.

[Scope of Claims]

[Claim 1] Antibacterial particle, wherein it is granulated by mixing an antibacterial metal ion in a slurry containing an amorphous calcium phosphate particle.

[Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Applicability] The present invention relates to an antibacterial particle used for keeping the freshness of food such as fresh food and the like.

[0002]

[Prior art] Conventionally, the strong antibacterial property and the heat resistance of meal and its metal salt of silver and the like that has the antiseptic property have been noted, as described in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 5-154, an antibacterial composition in which an antibacterial silver compound is absorbed and carried by an inorganic carrier which is physiologically inactive or an antibacterial zeolite composition in which an antibacterial metal ion is carried by zeolite by performing an ion exchange for the purpose of obtaining a molded matter safely having the antibacterial property for a

long time by mixing the above-described metal and its meal salt in a synthesized resin and the like and molding it are known.

[0003] Moreover, as an antibacterial composition, as disclosed in Japanese Published Examined Patent Application No. 4-28646, an antibacterial composition in which the above-described metal and its metal ion are carried by an inorganic carrier, for example, zeolite by means of absorbing or performing the ion exchange is known.

[0004] As a similar antibacterial composition, an antibacterial composition in which iodeform, chlorhexidine and the like have been mixed as an antibacterial composition in tricalcium phosphate, tetracalcium phosphate and octacalcium phosphate has been disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 62-19508, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 4-29907.

[0005] Furthermore, in recent years, an antibacterial composition in which an antibacterial metal and its metal ion are carried by hydroxyapatite [chemical formula: Ca₁₀(PO₄)₆(OH)₂] most frequently used as calcium phosphate based compound, has been disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2-180270, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 3-47118, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 3-273165, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 3-137298, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 3-218765, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 4-13605, and Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 5-514.

[0006] As for an antibacterial composition disclosed in the above-described patent document, after an antibacterial metal and its metal ion have been absorbed and carried by hydroxyapatite the antibacterial metal and its metal ion are bound to hydroxyapatite. Moreover, in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 3-90007, and Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 3-271209, antibacterial metal ion is absorbed in a hydroxyapatite slurry.

[0007]

[Problem to be solved by the Invention] However, the above-described conventional

antibacterial zeolite and antibacterial tricalcium phosphate, tetracalcium phosphate, octacalcium phosphate have a problem that in the case where a synthetic resin is melted and kneaded, a stable antibacterial property is not obtained.

[0008] On the other hand, as for hydroxyapatite in which an antibacterial metal and its metal ion are absorbed and carried, it has a problem that when it is used in water, or when it is in contact with a substance having a large amount of water content, the antibacterial metal is eluted and the antibacterial property becomes inferior, and when the solar light or the light of fluorescent tube irradiates, it turns brown or the like as well.

[0009] Moreover, when the apatite complex particle obtained as described above is treated at a high temperature, elution of the antibacterial metal can be prevented; however, the antibacterial force is lowered, and particularly, in an antibacterial metal such as silver and the like whose antibacterial force with respect to Staphylococcus aureus or the like, there is a problem that the antibacterial effect is not sufficient.

[0010]

[Means for Solving the Problem] For the purpose of solving the above-described problems, an antibacterial particle of the present invention is characterized in that an antibacterial metal ion has been mixed in a slurry containing an amorphous calcium phosphate particle and has been granulized.

[0011] As for a slurry containing the above-described amorphous calcium phosphate (hereinafter, abbreviated as ACP), after an aqueous macromolecular dispersing agent, for example, 0.1 - 10% by weight of ammonium triacrylate is added, and preferably 0.1 - 3% by weight of it is added to calcium hydroxide suspension under the agitating condition and the mixture solution is obtained, the slurry containing an ACP fine particle having the particle size of about $0.1~\mu m$ or less is obtained by adjusting the above-described mixture solution under the agitating condition in the range from pH10 to pH5 by dropping phosphoric acid aqueous solution.

[0012] An antibacterial particle is obtained by granulizing the mixture in which an

antibacterial metal powder, antibacterial metal compound or their aqueous solutions have been mixed in this slurry by a spraying and drying granulation method so that their content is 50% by weight or less.

[0013] As for the above-described ACP fine particle, it has been admitted that it is calcium phosphate $[Ca_3(PO_4)_2 \cdot nH_2O]$ from its pattern by a powder X-ray analyzing method and it is an amorphous calcium phosphate since its pattern is broad. Moreover, the above-described ACP fine particle is thought that it is an electrostatically active substance since it contains crystal water, and it is estimated that a variety of bacteria and viruses are easily absorbed by it.

[0014] Moreover, since the obtained antibacterial particle has a large specific surface area, it is desired that the particle diameter of the APC fine particle of the slurry is 0.1 μ m or less, and the particle size of the antibacterial metal powder and antibacterial metal compound powder which are to be added is 20 μ m or less. Moreover, it is desired that the slurry and an antibacterial metal powder, antibacterial metal compound powder or antibacterial metal aqueous solution which are to be added are mixed at room temperature.

[0015] On the other hand, in the case where the ACP fine particle is 90% by weight or more, since the viscosity of a slurry becomes high, it is not suitable for granulizing it. It should be noted that an antibacterial particle having a desired average particle diameter can be obtained by changing the content of the ACP fine particle in the slurry in the range from 1 to 90% by weight.

[0016] Moreover, as a granulating method, if the obtained particle whose particle diameter size is 200 μm or less, is porous, and in an approximately spherical shape, and the specific surface area can be made $10m^2/g$ or more, it is not particularly limited; however, for example, it can utilize a spraying and drying granulation method, and besides that, a granulating method in which it is ground after it is freeze-dried or a high speed agitation type granulating method may be used.

[0017] As an antibacterial metal, one type of metal selected from gold, silver, zinc, copper, tin, lead, arsenic, platinum, iron, antimony, nickel, aluminum, barium, cadmium or manganese, or their mixture or their metal compound and their aqueous solutions can be used.

[0018]

[Examples] Examples of the present invention will be explained with reference to Figs. 1 and 2 as follows. First, a method of preparing a slurry containing an amorphous calcium phosphate (hereinafter, abbreviated as ACP) particle will be explained. First, after the mixture solution was obtained by adding 0.5% by weight of ammonium triacrylate as an aqueous macromolecular dispersing agent to calcium hydroxide suspension under the agitating condition, a slurry containing an ACP fine particle having the particle diameter of about 0.1 μ m or less was obtained by adjusting its pH to pH10 by dropping phosphoric acid aqueous solution in the above-described mixture under the agitating condition.

[0019] [Example 1] An ACP slurry prepared such that the concentration of ACP is 20% by weight by diluting the above-described slurry with an ion-exchanged water was obtained. An anhydrous silver nitrate powder which has been dissolved in the ion-exchanged water was mixed in the ACP slurry so that it becomes 10 mol%, and the mixed slurry was obtained by agitating for one hour by an agitating motor.

[0020] As shown in Fig. 1, the above-described mixed slurry 3 containing an ACP particle 1 and a silver ion 2 was supplied to a spraying dryer (L-8 manufactured by Ohkawara Kakohki Co., Ltd.) 5 by a metering pump 4. An atomizer 6 of the spraying dryer 5 was rotated in a high rate, and then it was granulized and dried by a spraying granulizing method by spraying the above-described mixed slurry 3 in the heated air flow for drying within the spraying dryer 5.

[0021] A complex particle 7 in an approximately spherical shape which is an ACP fine powder body containing silver ion obtained by granulizing and drying was collected by a

cyclone 8. At that time, the super fine powder which had not been collected by the cyclone 8 was separately collected by a bug filter (not shown).

[0022] It should be noted that the operation conditions in the above-described spraying drying granulation was as follows. The supplied amount of the mixed slurry 3 as a raw material by the metering pump 4 was in the range from 1 to 3 kg/hr, and concerning the temperature of heated air which was heated by an electric heater 10 via an air filter 9, the inlet temperature of a heating gas room 11 was controlled in the range from 200 to 250°C, and the outlet temperature in a discharge orifice 12 communicating to the cyclone 8 was controlled such that it exceeded 100°C at all times, and the number of revolutions of the atomizer 6 was set in the range from 10000 to 37000 rpm.

[0023] Moreover, when the complex particle was prepared in a similar manner to the above-described conditions except that the amount of supplying the slurry was made 100 kg/hr using two types of spraying dryers which had been scaled up the above-described spraying dryer 5 (FOC-20, OD-25G, FOC-25, OC-25 manufactured by Ohkawara Kakohki Co., Ltd.), a complex particle similar to the complex particle 7 by the above-described spraying dryer 5 was obtained. The complex particle 7 obtained in this way was in a spherical shape.

[0024] [Example 2] The complex particle 7 in a spherical shape was obtained by operations under the same conditions to the above-described Example 1 except that the mixture ratio of silver nitrate was made 5 mol% instead of 10 mol%.

[0025] [Example 3] The complex particle 7 in a spherical shape was obtained by operations under the same conditions to the above-described Example 1 except that the mixture ratio of silver nitrate was made 2 mol% instead of 10 mol%.

[0026] [Example 4] The complex particle 7 in a spherical shape was obtained by operations under the same conditions to the above-described Example 1 except that the mixture ratio of silver nitrate was made 1 mol% instead of 10 mol%.

[0027] [Example 5] The complex particle 7 in a spherical shape was obtained by

operations under the same conditions to the above-described Example 1 except that the mixture ratio of silver nitrate was made 0.5 mol% instead of 10 mol%.

[0028] [Example 6] The complex particle 7 in a spherical shape was obtained by operations under the same conditions to the above-described Example 1 except that the mixture ratio of silver nitrate was made 0.3 mol% instead of 10 mol%.

[0029] When the formation phases of the above-described respective complex particles 7obtained in the above-described respective Examples were examined by a powder X-ray analyzing method, as shown in Fig. 2, the obtained complex particle 7 was identified as a complex of calcium phosphate [Ca₃(PO₄)₂·nH₂O] and silver, and since the above-described X-ray analyzed pattern is broad, it was understood that calcium phosphate is amorphous. Moreover, it was identified that the above-described complex particle 7 had charged silver ion within calcium phosphate, and it forms both of the above-described ones in a solid soluble state. Specifically, it is estimated that silver ion had been charged within the fine crystal of the above-described calcium phosphate, at the position of calcium ion or the like. [0030] It is considered that it becomes a porous and in a spherical shape since the respective complex particles 7 of the above-described respective Examples was granulized using the ACP particle 1 by a spraying granulation.

[0031] Next, the specific surface areas of the obtained above-described respective complex particles 7 were measured. Their specific surface areas were measured using a specific surface area meter (Flowsorb 2300, manufactured by Shimadzu Corporation). As a Comparative Example, an apatite complex particle (product which is available in the market, specific surface area 2.31 m²/g) was used. Their results are indicated in Table 1. [0032]

[Table 1]

Sample	Specific surface area (m²/g)
Example 1	80.5

Example 2	79.9
Example 3	80.1
Example 4	80.3
Example 5	79.8
Example 6	82.7
Comparative Example	2.31

[0033] As clearly understood from Table 1, concerning with the respective complex particles 7 obtained in the above-described respective Examples, any one of the specific surface areas was 79 m²/g or more, and it was indicated that these are extremely larger than that of the apatite complex particle which is a product available in the market.

[0034] Next, the antibacterial forces of the respective complex particles 7 obtained in the above-described Examples 3, 4 and 5 were measured. As a Comparative Example, the above-described apatite complex particle (product which is available in the market) was used.

[0035] Method of Testing

1. Preparation of bacterial liquid

The test bacteria cultured at 37°C for 18 hours in an agar medium was flew on phosphoric acid buffer (1/15 M, pH 7.2), and stock solution which is suspension having the concentration of 10⁸ cells/ml was adjusted and the stock solution was used by appropriately diluting the stock solution.

[0036] 2. Antibacterial test (shake flask method)

With the respective complex particle 7 as sample, 0.1 g of the respective ones was weighted, it was input in 200 ml Elrenmeyer flask in which 100 ml of the above-described phosphoric acid buffer had been put, and after the test bacterial suspension was added to this such that its concentration becomes about 10^5 cells/ml, the Erlenmeyer flask was shaken while the temperature was maintained at 25° C \pm 5° C, and the number of bacteria

within the above-described Erlenmeyer flask was measured over time. The used bacterial strains are as follows.

[0037]

Used bacterial strains

Escherichia coli

IFO-12734

Staphylococcus aureus

IFO-12732

Psedomonas aeruginosa IFO-12689

Candida albicans

IFO-1060

Used media

Bacteria: Mueller Hinton 2 (BBL)

Fungus: poteto dexitrose agar medium (Eiken)

The above-described measurement results are indicated in Tables 2-5.

[0038]

[Table 2]

The tested Bacteria: Escherichia coli, the number of bacteria at the initiation: 5.7×10^5

cells/ml

Sample	The change in the number of bacteria over time (viable cell count per 1ml)			
	6 hr	24 hr	48 hr	
Example 3	0	0	0	
Example 4	0	0	0	
Example 5	0	0	0	
Comparative	0	0	0	
Example				

[0039]

[Table 3] The tested Bacteria:Staphylococcus aureus, the number of bacteria at the initiation: 6.3×10^5 cells/m

Sample	The change in the per 1ml)	The change in the number of bacteria over time (viable cell count per 1ml)		
	6 hr	24 hr	48 hr	
Example 3	0	0	0	
Example 4	0	0	0	
Example 5	0	0	0	
Comparative	4.3×10^2	0	0	
Example				

[0040]

[Table 4]

The tested Bacteria: Pseudomonas aeruginosa, the number of bacteria at the initiation: 7.2

× 10⁵ cells/ml

Sample	The change in the number of bacteria (viable cell count per 1ml)			
	6 hr	24 hr	48 hr	
Example 3	0	0	. 0	
Example 4	0	0	0	
Example 5	0	0	0	
Comparative	0	0	0	
Example				

[0041]

[Table 5]

The tested Bacteria: Candida albicans, the number of bacteria at the initiation: 6.8×10^5

cells/ml

Sample	The change in the number of bacteria (viable cell count per 1ml)				
	6 hr	24 hr	48 hr		
Example 3	0	0	0		
Example 4	0	0	0		
Example 5	0	0	0		
Comparative	0	0	0		
Example					

[0042] As can be known, it was indicated that the complex particle 7 of the above-described Examples has a higher antibacterial effect than the above-described apatite complex particle which is available in the market as the conventional antibacterial particle. It is estimated, this is because the specific surface area being in contact with the bacteria is large that since the complex particles of the above-described respective Examples are porous, and because the ACP which has been used as a base material has a high bacteria absorbing capability (see Evening Edition of Asahi Shimbun, dated January 16, 1993).

[0043] Moreover, since these complex particle 7 is in an spherical shape, in the case where these are blended into a resin molded product or the like such as a foamed plastic tray and the like on which the fresh food is mounted, these are easily and uniformly dispersed, and the mixture property with respect to the resin molded product can be enhanced than the conventional ones.

[0044] Next, it is estimated that the above-described respective complex particle 7 is used for the above-described tray which is white color such as a foamed plastic tray or the like on which the fresh food is mounted by blending it into a plastic sheet. Accordingly, there is a risk that in the case where the blended complex particle 7 is a colored one, the user mistakenly admits a rubbish or stain is attached on the above-described tray.

Therefore, the color difference measurement of the above-described respective complex particle 7 was carried out.

[0045] The respective complex particles 7 obtained in the above-described respective Examples 3 - 6 were treated as samples, and for the purpose of comparison, the standard plate having the white color surface in accordance with JISK 7105 and the above-described samples were measured by a color difference meter of an integrated sphere method (ND-100P, manufactured by Nippon Denshoku Industries, Co., Ltd.), and the results are indicated in Table 6.

[0046] [Table 6]

	standard plate	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5	Example 6
whiteness					
degree					
tristimulus					
value X	82.6	88.2	86.3	85.1	86.3
Y	81.2	86.2	84.4	83.2	84.5
z	92.5	105	102	100	102
Whiteness					
w	78.4	88.7	86.2	85.0	86.3
WB	90.3	93.9	92.9	92.2	92.9
Yellowness	7.0	-1.6	0.1	0.2	0.2

[0047] As clearly indicated in Table 6, it was understood that all of the samples are whiter than the standard white surface. Owing to this fact, the mixing property with

respect to the resin molded product can be enhanced by the above-described complex particle 7, and it can be easily kneaded at the time when a plastic container or the like available in the market is manufactured since it is colorless as well, or even in the case where it is easily mixed and molded in a plastic sheet, the risk that it is mistakenly admitted as a stain or the like can be prevented.

[0048] Hence, the above-described complex particle 7 can be exposed on the interior surface of the container by mixing it with a resin raw material and molding it into a plastic container, and since it can be coated on the surface of a plastic container like lamipack or the like, the growth of saprophytic bacteria in food mounted on the above-described plastic container can be suppressed and it can be avoided that the appearance of the above-described plastic container becomes degraded as well.

[0049] As described above, the above-described complex particle 7 can contemplate the enhancement of the period durability of the fresh food and it has a prevention effect of food poisoning by the food in which saprophytic bacteria have grown as well and further, it can have an effect of maintaining the freshness of agricultural products such as mushroom, fruits or the like.

[0050] As a result, since the above-described complex particle 7 is excellent in antibacterial property and it can avoid the degradation of the appearance, it can be preferably used for tray or the like on which food such as fresh food or the like is mounted.

[0051]

[Effect of the Invention] An antibacterial particle of the present invention is, as described above, a particle in which an antibacterial metal ion has been mixed in a slurry containing an amorphous calcium phosphate particle and has been granulized.

[0052] Therefore, since the above-described antibacterial particle has a high

antibacterial property and it can enhance the mixing property with respect to a resin molded product as well and further, it is colorless, it exerts the effect that it is preferably

used for a tray or the like on which food such as fresh food or the like is mounted.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Fig.1] Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing a spraying dryer used for antibacterial particle of the present invention.

[Fig.2] Fig. 2 is a graphical representation of X-ray analysis showing a composition of the above-described antibacterial particle.

[Description of the Reference numerals]

- 1 ACP particle (amorphous calcium phosphate particle)
- 2 silver ion (antibacterial metal ion)
- 7 complex particle (antibacterial particle)

Fig.1

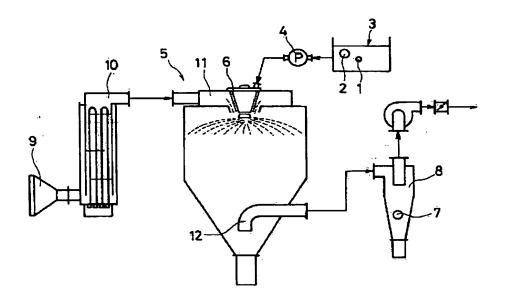
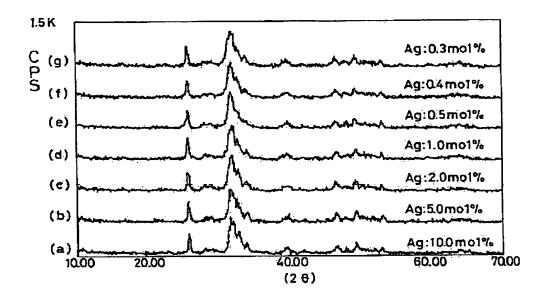


Fig.2

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